WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image processing apparatus comprising:

a) input means for inputting image data;

b) object detecting means for detecting an object in the input image data from said input means;

c) measuring means for measuring a distance from the object detected by said object detecting means to a predetermined position; and

d) predetermined object detecting means for detecting a predetermined object on the basis of an output from said measuring means.

2. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said predetermined object detecting means detects an object whose distance to the predetermined position falls within a predetermined range.

3. An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein said input means comprises image pickup means for picking up an image of an object via an optical system.

4. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the predetermined position is a position of said image pickup means.

5. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein said image pickup means comprises focusing control

means for controlling focusing of said optical system, and

wherein said measuring means measures the distance from the object detected by said object detecting means to the predetermined position on the basis of focusing control information from said focusing control means.

6. An apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising size detecting means for detecting a size of the object detected by said object detecting means, wherein said predetermined object detecting means detects an object with a predetermined size on the basis of an output from said size detecting means.

7. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said predetermined object detecting means comprises setting means for setting a size of an object to be detected.

8. An apparatus according to claim 6, wherein said input means comprises image pickup means for picking up an image of an object via an optical system, said image pickup means comprising zoom control means for controlling said optical system to enlarge an image, and

wherein said predetermined object detecting means detects an object with the predetermined size on the

basis of zoom control information from said zoom

control means.

9. An apparatus according to claim 8, wherein

said image pickup means comprises focusing control

means for controlling focusing of said optical system,

and

wherein said measuring means measures the distance

from the object detected by said object detecting means

to the predetermined position on the basis of focusing

control information from said focusing control means.

10. An apparatus according to claim 1, further

comprising output means for outputting a detection

output from said predetermined object detecting means

to an external apparatus.

11. An apparatus according to claim 10, wherein

when said predetermined object detecting means detects

a predetermined object, said output means outputs the

detection result to said external apparatus.

12. An apparatus according to claim 1, wherein

said image processing apparatus is incorporated into a

monitoring camera.

13. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein

said measuring means uses control information for
controlling said optical system of said image pickup
means.

5   14. An apparatus according to claim 3, wherein
said predetermined object detecting means uses control
information for controlling said optical system of said
image pickup means.

10   15. An image processing apparatus comprising:
        a) image pickup means having an optical system;
        b) object detecting means for detecting an object
in image data picked up by said image pickup means;
        c) control means for controlling said optical
15   system of said image pickup means; and
        d) predetermined object detecting means for
detecting a predetermined object on the basis of an
output from said object detecting means and an output
from said control means.

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        16. An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein
said predetermined object detecting means detects an
object within a predetermined distance range from said
image pickup means.

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        17. An apparatus according to claim 16, wherein
        said control means controls focusing of said

optical system, and

wherein said predetermined object detecting means uses focusing control information from said control means.

18. An apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising size detecting means for detecting a size of the object detected by said object detecting means, wherein said predetermined object detecting means detects an object with a predetermined size on the basis of an output from said size detecting means.

19. An apparatus according to claim 18, wherein said control means controls zooming of said optical system, and

wherein said predetermined object detecting means uses zooming control information from said control means.

20. An apparatus according to claim 15, further comprising output means for outputting the detection result to an external apparatus when said predetermined object detecting means detects a predetermined object.

21. An apparatus according to claim 15, wherein said image processing apparatus is incorporated into a monitoring camera.

22. An image processing method comprising the steps of:

    a) inputting image data;

    b) detecting an object in the input image data;

5   c) measuring a distance from the detected object to a predetermined position; and

    d) detecting a predetermined object on the basis of the measurement result.

10   23. An image processing method comprising the steps of:

    a) inputting image data from image pickup means having an optical system;

    b) detecting an object in the input image data;

15   c) controlling said optical system of said image pickup means; and

    d) detecting a predetermined object on the basis of the detection result in the object detection step and the control result in the control step.